



## Changes to Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) Regulations

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OFC26-0002

Environment & Climate Change Canada has advised of major upcoming regulatory changes affecting PFAS-containing foams.

As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026, The *Prohibition of Certain Toxic Substances Regulations, 2025* will replace the 2012 version of the regulations. The fire service must understand these changes and prepare for the phase-out of C8 AFFF by the mandated deadlines. See Appendix A for the full Government of Canada communication.

The updated regulations will:

- Further restrict the manufacture, sale, import, and use of C8 AFFF
- Introduce phased prohibitions between 2026-2028
- Control the export of C8 AFFF

**Effective June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026**, the following activities with C8 AFFF become prohibited:

- Import,
- Sale (except cost recovery between mutual aid partners after an authorized emergency use),
- Export expected to be controlled under the *Export Control List Regulations*
- Use, including training and system testing, except:
  - Class B fire suppression during emergencies,
  - Testing of installed firefighting systems **only if all** releases are fully contained and properly disposed of.

**Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2028:**

- All use of C8 AFFF prohibited, except for a limited set of critical military exemptions.

**Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2028:**

- All sales of C8 AFFF prohibited, including mutual-aid cost recovery.

## Appendix A

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has identified your organization as a potential user, importer, manufacturer or seller of firefighting foams, specifically *aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF)*, because of your work in the firefighting sector, aviation, or the chemical and oil industries. We want to inform you that changes were made to regulations that apply to toxic substances found in AFFF. The resources below will help you determine if these regulations apply to you and understand what you can do to comply with them.

AFFF are known to contain [per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances](#) (PFAS). The Government of Canada has already acted on certain harmful subgroups of PFAS that were declared toxic under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (CEPA). Three subgroups are already prohibited with certain exemptions under the *Prohibition of Certain Toxic Substances Regulations, 2012* (the 2012 Regulations):

- perfluorooctanoic acid, its salts and its precursors (PFOA),
- long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids, their salts and their precursors (LC-PFCAs); and
- perfluorooctane sulfonate, its salts and its precursors (PFOS).

AFFF containing PFOS are typically referred to as PFOS-based AFFF and AFFF containing PFOA and/or LC-PFCAs are typically referred to as C8 AFFF. AFFF containing other PFAS that are *not* currently restricted are commonly referred to as C6 AFFF.

The [Prohibition of Certain Toxic Substances Regulations, 2025](#) (the 2025 Regulations) were published in *Canada Gazette*, Part II on December 31, 2025. The 2025 Regulations will repeal and replace the 2012 Regulations when they come into force on June 30, 2026. The 2025 Regulations further restrict the manufacture use, sale and import of C8 AFFF.



On June 30, 2026, it will be prohibited to import, sell and use C8 AFFF, and their export is expected to be controlled.

A few time-limited exemptions will allow the transition to alternatives.

Make sure to transition away from C8 AFFF by the timelines outlined below.

The following timeline outlines when key activities with C8 AFFF will become prohibited in Canada.

Since December 23, 2016, it has been prohibited to:

- manufacture C8 AFFF
- use C8 AFFF for any other purposes than for firefighting

From June 30, 2026, it will be prohibited to:

- import C8 AFFF
- use C8 AFFF (including for training; see best practices with AFFF below), except to:
  - extinguish Class B fires during emergencies or
  - test installed firefighting systems under certain conditions (see best practices with AFFF below)
- sell C8 AFFF, except for the cost recovery between mutual aid partners following an authorized emergency use
- In addition, the export of C8 AFFF is expected to be controlled under the [Export of Substances on the Export Control List Regulations](#)

From January 1, 2028, it will be prohibited to:

- use C8 AFFF, except for critical uses in specific military applications, which have exemptions that expire later

From July 1, 2028, it will be prohibited to:

- sell C8 AFFF, including the sale of C8 AFFF as part of the cost recovery between mutual aid partners



#### Best Practices with AFFF

AFFF should only be used in emergency situations where a significant Class B fire hazard exists. You should follow proper procedures to prevent any environmental release, even during emergencies. Appropriate safe handling and storage practices should also be used to reduce occupational exposure to PFAS used in AFFF.

Avoid using AFFF for training; instead, use training foams designed to mimic AFFF but without PFAS. Starting on June 30, 2026, it is prohibited to use AFFF containing PFOA and/or LC-PFCAs, such as C8 AFFF, for training purposes.

When testing your firefighting systems containing AFFF, make sure to contain and dispose of all releases produced in an environmentally sound manner. Starting on June 30, 2026, you must do so when testing your firefighting systems containing PFOA and/or LC-PFCAs, such as C8 AFFF.

You can visit the webpage [Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and aqueous film-forming foam used in firefighting](#) for more helpful information, including:

- How to tell if your firefighting foam contains PFAS
- Regulations and the phase-out of PFAS in AFFF
- Alternatives to AFFF
- Decontamination of equipment
- Additional best practices with AFFF, such as disposal

In addition, note that Canada is proposing to place restrictions on C6 AFFF. You can find out more about these activities by consulting the [Risk management approach for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances \(PFAS\), excluding fluoropolymers](#)